

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASS OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 623

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

CNO WASHDC

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCLANT

CINCLANTFLT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MNUC MARR OCLR NO

SUBJ: NORWEGIAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS POLICY

REF: OSLO 4554

1. AS EXPECTED NUCLEAR WEAPONS ISSUE AROSE DURING PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON THRONE SPEECH OCT 14-15 (SEE REFTEL). FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF EXCHANGE BETWEEN BERGE FURRE, PARLIAMENTARY LEADER OF THE SOCIALIST LEFT PARTY WHO POSED QUESTION AND PRIME MINISTER BRATTELI WHO RESPONDED ON BEHALF OF NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT.

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BEGIN QUOTE

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT BERGE FURRE: MANY HAVE BEEN CONCERNED RECENTLY ABOUT THE UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE LIMITS, OR COPE, OF THE GOVERNMENT'S NUCLEAR AND BASE POLICIES. WE HAVE LONG HAD WEAPONS ON NORWEGIAN SOIL CAPABLE OF CARRYING NUCLEAR WARHEADS, WE HAVE MAINTAINED THAT THIS VIOLATED NORWEGIAN NUCLEAR POLICY, AND WE HAVE THEREFORE MAINTAINED THAT NUCLEAR WEAPONS SHOULD NOT BE STATIONED IN NORWAY. APPARENTLY, THE GOVERNMENT HAS A DIFFERENT VIEW ON THIS ISSUE. BUT WE BELIEVE THERE WAS AGREEMENT THAT NUCLEAR WARHEADS WERE NOT TO BE FOUND ON NORWEGIAN TERRITORY, WHETHER FOR SHORTER OR LONGER PERIODS, WHETHER ON SHIPS IN NORWEGIAN WATERS OR IN NORWEGIAN PORTS. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS WAS PART OF THE NUCLEAR POLICY OF THE 1950'S AND THAT IT REMAINED IN FORCE TODAY.

BUT ON THURSDAY LAS WEEK (REFTEL) THE DEFENSE MINISTER SAID SOMETHING ELSE: "EVEN IF WE WERE TO ACCEPT FOREIGN SHIPS IN NORWEGIAN PORTS CARRYING NUCLEAR ARMS, IT WOULD NOT DIRECTLY FOLLOW THAT THE NUCLEAR POLICY HAD BEEN VIOLATED." THIS CONTRADICTS WHAT HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN STATED -- THAT EVER SINCE 1951 IT HAS BEEN AN ASSUMPTION THAT FOREIGN SHIPS VISITING NORWEGIAN TERRITORY DO NOT CARRY NUCLEAR ARMS.

I MUST APPEAL TO THE GOVERNMENT TO CLEAR UP THE UNCERTAINTY AND CONCERN WHICH HAVE BEEN CREATED. FOR A GREAT MANY PEOPLE THIS IS A MATTER OT THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE. WE DO NOT WANT SUCH WEAPPONS ON NORWEGIAN TERRITORY -- OR ON FOREIGN NAVAL VESSELS VISITING HERE, WHETHER THEY COME FROM NATO COUNTRIES OR OTHER EASTERN NATIONS.

I WOULD BE REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT THE CONDITIONS FOR FOREIGN VISITS WILL BE MADE KNOWN TO THE COUNTRIES IN QUESTION. IT WOULD ALSO BE REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT SUCH CONDITIONS BE MADE A PART OF THE ROUTINE DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE OF SUCH VISITS. I EXPECT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL CLARIFY THIS MATTER DURING THE COURSE OF THIS DEBATE.

PRIME MINISTRER BRATTELI: REPRESENTATIVE BERGE FURRE YESTERDAY STATED A SPECIFIC QUESTION WHICH I WOULD LIKE TO ANSWER.

THE NORWEGIAN POSTURE ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS WAS STATED

IN A NUMBER OF DECLARATIONS BY THE GOVERNMENT IN 1957 AND 1958. IN THESE DECLARATIONS IT WAS MADE QUITE CLEAR NUCLEAR ARMS WERE NOT TO BE STATIONED IN NORWAY.

PRIME MINISTER GERHARDSSEN IN THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEBATE ON JANUARY 30, 1958, SAID THAT NORWAY AT THE NATO SUMMIT MEETING IN PARIS IN DECEMBER OF 1957 HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT NO PLANS EXISTED FOR STATIONING OF NUCLEAR ARMS IN NORWAY.

THIS VIEW WAS LATER REAFFIRMED IN 1960 AND 1961, IN A STORTING PROPOSITION ON DEFENSE PLANNING. IT SAYS, IN PART, THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT RECOMMEND ANY CHANGES ON STORING OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN NORWAY. THE GERHARDSSEN GOVERNMENT'S POSTURE ON THIS ISSUE RECEIVED FULL SUPPORT IN THE STORTING. SINCE THEN THEREHAVE BEEN NO CHANGES IN NORWEGIAN NUCLEAR POLICY. IN OTHER WORDS, THE NORWEGIAN NUCLEAR POLICY OF THE 50'S IS DIRECTED AGAINST STATIONING OR STORING NUCLEAR ARMS ON NORWEGIAN TERRITORY. THE QUESTION WHETHER FOREIGN NAVAL VESSELS ON BRIEF VISITS TO NORWAY COULD CARRY NUCLEAR ARMS WAS NOT DISCUSSED AT ALL. IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEW THAT FOREIGN NAVAL VESSELS CARRYING NUCLEAR ARMS WHILE ON ROUTINE VISITS TM NORWEGIAN PORTS DO NOT REPRESENT A VIOLATION OF NORWEGIAN NUCLEAR POLICY.

HOWEVER, FOR OTHER REASONS, IT HAS BEEN THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO AVOID SUCH VISITS. BOTH ALLIED NATIONS AND OTHER NUCLEAR POWERS ARE AWARE OF THIS. THE CONDITION FOR VISITS BY FOREIGN NAVAL VESSELS HAS BEEN, AND IS, THAT THEY DO NOT CARRY NUCLEAR WEAPONS. NORWEGIAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AUTHORITIES ASSUME THAT BOTH ALLIES AND OTHER NUCLEAR POWERS RESPECT THIS CONDITION. END QUOTE

2. COMMENT: WE NOTE THAT GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO HANDLE MATTER IN STRAIGHT FORWARD FASHION, THAT THE CRITICISM HAS COME EXCLUSIVELY FROM THE FAR LEFT AND LOCAL PRESS HAS NOT GIVEN ISSUE EXTENSIVE OR SENSATIONALIST TREATMENT. WE CAN EXPECT THAT FAR LEFT WILL CONTINUE TO HARASS GOVERNMENT BY QUESTIONING ITS INTERPRETATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS POLICY IN CONNECTION WITH SHIP VISITS AND BY RAISING SUBSIDIARY QUESTION OF GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO DETERMINE PRESENCE OF NUCLEAR WARHEADS ON SPECIFIC SHIPS IN NORWEGIAN WATERS.
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